

western Montana's economy. If you ask the folks who make a living in the woods what law is currently infringing on their ability to make a living for their families, they'll tell you about grizzly bears and road closures—once again coming back to the Endangered Species Act.

There is no doubt that we must reform the ESA. It is the single most restrictive law that Montanans and other American who rely on the land to make a living, must deal with. The communities in Montana lack the economic stability and predictability they deserve. The current law has many communities in Montana and throughout our Nation living on pins and needles. The bottom line is communities are hurting.

We need to change the ESA so that it truly protects and recovers species, won't cost millions of dollars per species, and will protect private propertyowners' rights. The bill we're introducing today accomplishes these goals.

Emphasis must be placed on recovery. The current law emphasizes the listing of species instead of protecting and recovering species. In order to do this, the Endangered Species Conservation Act contains the following principles:

First, as I stated earlier, above all we must concentrate our efforts on recovery plans. If we do so, we would focus on the least costly alternative and we would assess the impacts of decisions made under the act for State and local economics. In addition, this would force priorities to be set and would generate recovery plans which are reasonable and obtainable.

Second, the ESCA bill we've introduced today recognizes that a one-size-fits-all recovery standard is flawed. The ESCA establishes standards for prioritizing where Federal dollars should be spent and what level of conservation will be sought.

Finally, it also ensures decisions are based on better science. Peer review procedures need to be added to improve the overall data collected so that the right decisions are made. We must have three decisions made outside of politics and instead done by objective individuals who have a background in science. The bill establishes an Endangered Species Commission which will ensure sound science, not politics, drives our decisions.

The best decisions are those made at the local level, and I believe we need increased private participation in our conservation efforts. The fact is, local individuals are the best people to support any conservation plan. They work and live in the areas affected, and they have a stake in what happens in their own backyards.

Washington should not forget, these people want to maintain the quality of life they have for their families. The ESCA encourages cooperative management agreements for non-Federal efforts and other incentives for private land owners. These include deferment

of estate taxes where conservation easements are in place, technical assistance, and cost sharing.

Without a doubt, compensation must be given to individuals who lose the use of their private property under a Federal Government conservation plan. Our Constitution and property rights need protection on every front. Anything short of that is selling our constitutional rights down the river. I am pleased that the ESCA contains a provision to protect our private property rights.

The Endangered Species Act has a good goal. However, since it became law, it has been twisted and misused for other purposes. We need some common sense put back into recovering species. Starting from a new view point, and crafting an act which truly reflects what we want to do—conserve and recover species—has to be the focus. We can't let the existing law and regulations run multiple use off our lands.

Reforming the Endangered Species Act is essential to Montana's economy. Our four largest industries—agriculture, timber, mining, and oil and gas rely on the use of land. And it's these industries which supply the jobs and the tax base for Montana. Changing the laws on conserving and recovering endangered species is important for jobs for Montanans, and it is important for sound land management activities.

The Endangered Species Conservation Act is a good bill and I hope the Senate will act quickly in considering this important issue.●

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 228

At the request of Mr. BRYAN, the name of the Senator from Iowa [Mr. HARKIN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 228, a bill to amend certain provisions of title 5, United States Code, relating to the treatment of Members of Congress and Congressional employees for retirement purposes.

S. 650

At the request of Mr. SHELBY, the name of the Senator from Virginia [Mr. WARNER] was added as a cosponsor of S. 650, a bill to increase the amount of credit available to fuel local, regional, and national economic growth by reducing the regulatory burden imposed upon financial institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 678

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the names of the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. HELMS] and the Senator from Illinois [Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN] were added as cosponsors of S. 678, a bill to provide for the coordination and implementation of a national aquaculture policy for the private sector by the Secretary of Agriculture, to establish an aquaculture development and research program, and for other purposes.

S. 690

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Washington

[Mrs. MURRAY] was added as a cosponsor of S. 690, a bill to amend the Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974 and the Terminal Inspection Act to improve the exclusion, eradication, and control of noxious weeds and plants, plant products, plant pests, animals, and other organisms within and into the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 878

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Ohio [Mr. DEWINE] was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 878, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce mandatory premiums to the United Mine Workers of America Combined Benefit Fund by certain surplus amounts in the Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 881

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island [Mr. PELL] was added as a cosponsor of S. 881, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify provisions relating to church pension benefit plans, to modify certain provisions relating to participants in such plans, to reduce the complexity of and to bring workable consistency to the applicable rules, to promote retirement savings and benefits, and for other purposes.

S. 968

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. BUMPERS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 968, a bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to prohibit the import, export, sale, purchase, and possession of bear viscera or products that contain or claim to contain bear viscera, and for other purposes.

S. 978

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the names of the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. INOUE], the Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. INHOFE], and the Senator from Illinois [Mr. SIMON] were added as cosponsors of S. 978, a bill to facilitate contributions to charitable organizations by codifying certain exemptions from the Federal securities laws, to clarify the inapplicability of antitrust laws to charitable gift annuities, and for other purposes.

S. 1200

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the names of the Senator from Alabama [Mr. HEFLIN] and the Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SPECTER] were added as cosponsors of S. 1200, a bill to establish and implement efforts to eliminate restrictions on the enclaved people of Cyprus.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 11

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Alabama [Mr. HEFLIN] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 11, a concurrent resolution supporting a resolution to the long-standing dispute regarding Cyprus.